

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	CRIMINAL NO. 24-
v.	:	DATE FILED: _____
LEE MANIATIS	:	VIOLATION:
	:	18 U.S.C. § 371 (conspiracy to commit
	:	federal program bribery – 1 count)
		Notice of forfeiture

INFORMATION

COUNT ONE

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:

At all times material to this information:

Amtrak and Federal Funding

1. Congress created the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, doing business as Amtrak, as a private, for-profit corporation, pursuant to the passage of the Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970, as amended, to operate a nationwide system of passenger rail transportation. Amtrak received significant federal funding through United States Department of Transportation (“DOT”) grants to cover its activities associated with the Northeast Corridor and the National Network as authorized by the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (Div. A; Pub. L. No. 114-94).

2. In addition to providing a substantial portion of Amtrak’s funding, the federal government also provided oversight of how the funds were spent. The Federal Railroad Administration (“FRA”), as part of the DOT, administered the grants to Amtrak and provided federal oversight of Amtrak’s grants. Amtrak’s ownership and corporate structure were heavily

controlled by the federal government. The United States government, through the Secretary of the DOT, owned all issued and outstanding preferred Amtrak stock.

3. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 24302, Amtrak's ten-member Board of Directors was comprised of the Secretary of the DOT; eight members nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate; and the President of Amtrak, who was appointed by the members of the Board. In selecting individuals for nomination to the Board, the President was required to consult with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, and the minority leader of the Senate to try to provide adequate and balanced representation of the major geographic regions of the United States served by Amtrak. These branches of the federal government exercised substantial supervision over Amtrak's operations. Amtrak was required to submit annual reports to Congress and the President of the United States detailing such information as route-specific ridership and on-time performance. Congress conducted oversight hearings to delve into details of Amtrak's budget, routes and prices. In addition, the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) applied to Amtrak.

4. Amtrak was substantially supported by federal funds. In 2016 and 2017, Amtrak received over \$1,000,000,000 in federal appropriations each year. In 2018 and 2019, Congress approved Amtrak to receive approximately \$1,950,000,000 each year in federal funding through DOT grants for the Northeast Corridor and the National Network.

30th Street Station Repair and Restoration Project

5. Amtrak had a major railroad station located at 2955 Market Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The station was located at the intersection of 30th Street and Market Street and was commonly referred to as 30th Street Station. The construction of 30th Street

Station began in 1929 and finished in 1933. In or about early 2015, companies were invited to bid on a project that would repair and restore the existing façade of 30th Street Station.

6. On or about December 10, 2015, a masonry restoration contractor known to the United States Attorney (the “Contractor”) was awarded a \$58,473,000 contract by Amtrak to be the main contractor on this 30th Street Station façade repair and restoration project.

7. Amtrak Employee #1, whose identity is known to the United States Attorney, was employed by Amtrak as the Project Manager on the repair and restoration project. In that capacity, Amtrak Employee #1 was responsible for communicating with the Contractor about the work being done on 30th Street Station.

8. Amtrak Employee #1 was also responsible for reviewing the invoices, change orders, and requests for payment that the Contractor submitted to Amtrak. Amtrak Employee #1 had the power to approve, or reject, these invoices, change orders, and requests for payment. Although Amtrak Employee #1 did not have the singular authority to approve Amtrak payments to the Contractor, his approval was a critical step in that process.

9. A change order was a written amendment to an existing contract after the effective date that alters the work, the contract sum, or the contract time. Amtrak referred to change orders as contract modifications.

10. Federal funding supplied approximately 90 percent of the money Amtrak used to pay the Contractor for the repair and restoration of the 30th Street Station façade.

Contractor Officials

11. Defendant LEE MANIATIS was a Vice President of the Contractor with responsibility to supervise the Contractor’s performance on the 30th Street Station façade project.

12. Khaled Dallo, charged elsewhere, was a Vice President of the Contractor, with responsibility to supervise the Contractor's performance on the 30th Street Station façade project.

13. Official Number 1 (Official #1), whose identity is known to the United States Attorney, was a senior officer of the Contractor with some oversight responsibility of the Contractor's performance on the 30th Street Station façade project.

14. Official Number 2 (Official #2), whose identity is known to the United States Attorney, was the sole owner and a senior officer of the Contractor.

15. The contract between Amtrak and the Contractor prohibited defendant LEE MANIATIS and other Contractor officials from "offer[ing] to any Amtrak employee, agent, or representative any cash, gift, entertainment, commission, or kickback for the purpose of securing favorable treatment with regard to award or performance of any contract or agreement."

THE CONSPIRACY

16. From in or about May 2016 through in or about November 2019, in Philadelphia, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and elsewhere, defendant

LEE MANIATIS

conspired, combined, and agreed with others known and unknown to the United States Attorney, including Amtrak Employee #1, Khaled Dallo, Official #1, and Official #2, to commit an offense against the United States, that is, to knowingly and corruptly give, offer, and agree to give a thing of value to Amtrak Employee #1, an agent of an organization which received in each one-year period from 2016 through 2019, benefits in excess of \$10,000 under a federal program involving a grant, contract, subsidy, loan, and other form of federal assistance, intending to influence and reward Amtrak Employee #1 in connection with any business, transaction and

series of transactions involving a thing of value of \$5,000 or more, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(2).

MANNER AND MEANS

17. Amtrak Employee #1, in his capacity as a project manager on the 30th Street Station Repair and Restoration Project, repeatedly demonstrated through his words and actions that he possessed the power and influence to approve, reject, and alter invoices, change orders, and contractor requests for payment.

18. Officials with the Contractor, including defendant LEE MANIATIS, Khaled Dallo, Official #1, and others known to the United States Attorney, recognized that Amtrak Employee #1 possessed the power and influence to approve, reject, and alter invoices, change orders, and Contractor requests for payment, and communicated this among themselves and to Official #2.

19. Defendant LEE MANIATIS, Khaled Dallo, Official #1, and others known to the United States Attorney, with Official #2's knowledge and agreement, provided Amtrak Employee #1 with gifts and other things of value totaling approximately \$323,686, including, among other things, paid vacations, jewelry, cash, dinners, entertainment, and transportation to ensure that Amtrak Employee #1 used his power and influence to benefit the Contractor during the performance of the 30th Street Station Repair and Restoration Project.

20. In return for these gifts and other things of value, Amtrak Employee #1 used his position at Amtrak to approve additional, more expensive changes to the 30th Street Station Repair and Restoration Project, thereby increasing the amount and value of the work to be performed by the Contractor. These additional expenses were reflected in a series of

change orders or contract modifications. Amtrak Employee #1 and officials with the Contractor, including defendant LEE MANIATIS, falsely inflated the true costs of some of the work to be performed by the Contractor under these change orders, causing Amtrak to be substantially overbilled for the completion of the 30th Street Station Repair and Restoration Project.

OVERT ACTS

In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to further its objective, defendant LEE MANIATIS, Amtrak Employee #1, and others known to the United States Attorney, committed the following overt acts, among others, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere:

1. On multiple occasions between on or about May 4, 2016, and on or about October 14, 2016, various officials employed by the Contractor, including defendant LEE MANIATIS and Khaled Dallo, gave Amtrak Employee #1 various items of value, namely, meals and associated entertainment with an aggregate value of several thousand dollars.
2. On or about October 17, 2016, Amtrak Employee #1, in his capacity as project manager for Amtrak, requested that Amtrak authorize a change order for an additional approximate \$13,397,324 in expenditures for the façade restoration project, with much of the requested expenditures to go to the Contractor.
3. On multiple occasions between in or about November 2016 and in or about December 2017, various officials employed by the Contractor, including defendant LEE MANIATIS, Khaled Dallo, and Official #1, gave Amtrak Employee #1 various items of value, namely, meals, associated entertainment, gift cards, limousine rentals, and alcohol with an aggregate value of several thousand dollars.

4. On or about January 17, 2017, defendant LEE MANIATIS purchased a Tourneau watch for approximately \$5,631.25. Shortly thereafter, defendant MANIATIS and Official #1 took Amtrak Employee #1 out to dinner and gave him the Tourneau watch.

5. On or about January 19, 2017, officials with the Contractor received notification that the requested change order had been approved by Amtrak. Defendant LEE MANIATIS then sent a text message to Official #1 noting the change order approval and stating, “[d]inner was worth it.”

6. On or about January 23, 2017, defendant LEE MANIATIS forwarded the notification of the approval of the change order to Official #2 with the notation, “\$ ding.”

7. On or about January 26, 2017, Amtrak Employee #1 notified defendant LEE MANIATIS that Amtrak Employee #1 wanted another watch that cost approximately \$6,000 more than the watch Amtrak Employee #1 had been given by defendant MANIATIS.

8. As requested, on or about May 15, 2017, defendant LEE MANIATIS returned the original Tourneau watch and purchased another timepiece for approximately \$11,294.38 and gave it to Amtrak Employee #1.

9. In addition, on or about June 14, 2017, defendant LEE MANIATIS paid various expenses related to an Ecuadorian vacation for Amtrak Employee #1 and certain companions of Amtrak Employee #1, including airfare, lodging, and a cruise excursion with an aggregate value of several thousand dollars.

10. On or about December 27, 2017, Amtrak Employee #1, in his capacity as project manager for Amtrak, requested that Amtrak authorize a second change order for an additional approximate \$5,698,816 in expenditures for the façade restoration project, with much of the requested expenditures to go to the Contractor.

11. On or about December 29, 2017, defendant LEE MANIATIS paid various expenses, including airfare, related to a vacation to India for Amtrak Employee #1 and a relative of Amtrak Employee #1, with an aggregate value of several thousand dollars.

12. On multiple occasions between in or about January 2018 and in or about May 2018, various officials employed by the Contractor, including defendant LEE MANIATIS and Khaled Dallo, gave Amtrak Employee #1 various items of value, namely, cash, meals, associated entertainment, gift cards, limousine rentals, and alcohol with an aggregate value of several thousand dollars.

13. On or about May 21, 2018, Amtrak Employee #1, in his capacity as project manager for Amtrak, requested that Amtrak authorize a third change order for an additional approximate \$8,998,536 in expenditures for the façade restoration project, with much of the requested expenditures to go to the Contractor.

14. On multiple occasions between in or about May 2018 and on or about November 5, 2018, various officials employed by the Contractor, including defendant LEE MANIATIS and Khaled Dallo, gave Amtrak Employee #1 various items of value, namely, meals, associated entertainment, gift cards, limousine rentals, and alcohol with an aggregate value of several thousand dollars.

15. On or about November 5, 2018, Amtrak Employee #1, in his capacity as project manager for Amtrak, requested that Amtrak authorize a fourth change order for an additional approximate \$836,519.17 in expenditures for the façade restoration project, with much of the requested expenditures to go to the Contractor.

16. On multiple occasions from in or about June 2017 until in or about February 2019, Official #2, with knowledge of the gifts and other things of value provided to Amtrak Employee #1 by Contractor officials, signed the change orders described above on behalf of the Contractor.

17. On multiple occasions between on or about November 7, 2018, and on or about March 28, 2019, various officials employed by the Contractor, including defendant LEE MANIATIS and Khaled Dallo, gave Amtrak Employee #1 various items of value, namely, meals, associated entertainment, gift cards, limousine rentals, and alcohol with an aggregate value of approximately several thousand dollars.

18. On or about April 5, 2019, Amtrak Employee #1, in his capacity as project manager for Amtrak, requested that Amtrak authorize a fifth change order for an additional approximate \$23,125,168.35 in expenditures for the façade restoration project, with much of the requested expenditures to go to the Contractor.

19. On multiple occasions between on or about April 28, 2019, and on or about November 13, 2019, various officials employed by the Contractor, including defendant LEE MANIATIS and Khaled Dallo, gave Amtrak Employee #1 various items of value, namely, meals, associated entertainment, gift cards, limousine rentals, and alcohol with an aggregate value of several thousand dollars.

20. In addition, on or about August 30, 2019, Khaled Dallo paid various expenses related to a vacation for Amtrak Employee #1, including airfare and lodging, with an aggregate value of approximately \$5000.

21. On multiple occasions from on or about June 1, 2016, to on or about September 9, 2019, Official #1 and Official #2, with knowledge of the gifts and other things of value provided to Amtrak Employee #1 by Contractor officials, signed pay applications seeking tens of millions of dollars from Amtrak for work completed by the Contractor, including work performed pursuant to the above-mentioned change orders.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:

1. As a result of the violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 set forth in this information, defendant

LEE MANIATIS

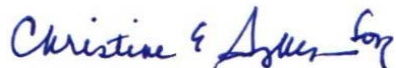
shall forfeit to the United States of America, any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the offense, including, but not limited to the sum of approximately \$278,420.49.

2. If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred to, sold to, or deposited with a third party;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of this Court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty,

the United States of America shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

All pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).



JACQUELINE C. ROMERO
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

No. _____

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Criminal Division

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

LEE MANIATIS

INFORMATION

18 U.S.C. § 371 (conspiracy to commit federal program bribery – 1 count)

A true bill.

Foreperson

Filed in open court this _____ day,
Of _____ A.D. 20 _____

Foreperson

Bail, \$ _____
